

The Semi-Weekly Messenger

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WILMINGTON, N. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1901.

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IN THE LEGISLATURE.

The Judicial Districts Bill Passed by Both Houses and Ordered Enrolled.

The Senate concurs in House Amendments to Anti-Trust Bill and the Public School Bill—Two Hundred Thousand Dollars Appropriated to Public Schools—Both Houses Pass the Permanent Registration Bill—Nominations by the Governor Confirmed. Senate Passes Omnibus Prohibition Bill—The Factory Labor Bills Tabled. Senate Takes Up the Revenue and the House the Machinery Act

SENATE.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., March 9.—Bills passed third reading as follows: To allow a vote on the removal of the county seat of Gaston from Dallas to Gastonia; house bill, to authorize electors of Guilford county to vote \$200,000 of bonds for road improvements; senate bill, to give control of the Agricultural and Mechanical college to the agricultural department.

The senate refused to concur in the house amendments to the road law.

Senator Ward moved to concur in the house amendment (Robinson's substitute) to the senate anti-trust bill—adopted.

The conference committee on the public school bill recommended that the senate concur in the house amendment—adopted.

Senator Ward presented to Sergeant-at-Arms Smith, on the part of the senate employees, a gold headed cane.

The following bills passed: To establish the stock law in parts of Jones county; to prevent stock from running at large in Burgaw; to enlarge the stock law territory of Bladen county; to prohibit the manufacture of whiskey and brandy in Clay county; to extend the time for beginning work on the Atlantic and Western railroad; to prohibit chickens, ducks and geese running at large in Bladen, Wayne and Mecklenburg counties.

The judicial district bill came up as a special order.

Senator Woodward said he could take this bill and go from the mountains to the sea with it and tell exactly whose ambitions were furthered.

Senator Morrison took a map and carefully demonstrated the work of the committee. He thought the stage had been reached where Pitt county alone was seriously dissatisfied.

The bill passed its third reading—aye, 28; noes, 13. The republicans voted "no" as did the following democrats: Arrington, Glenn, Thomas and Woodward.

The house bill appropriating \$100,000 annually to public schools and \$100,000 annually, besides, to bring the schools up to four months, making \$200,000 annually, passed—aye, 41; noes, 1; the latter being Senator Leak of Anson.

The house bill was taken up to provide for permanent registration of voters under section 4, article 6 of the constitution.

Senator Foushee said this merely provided for registration under the "Grandfather Clause." The bill passed its second reading—37 to 4. Duls, McIntosh, Michael, Miller of Caldwell, Pinnick, Robeson, Stikleather (republicans) voted "aye", and Buchanan, Candler, Crisp and Marshall (republicans) voted "no."

The revenue bill was read the first time and went over until Monday.

After the special committee's report on investigation of the blind institution was read Senator Woodward said, though on this committee, he did not sign the report because in some respects he did not consider it full enough.

Senator Justice said the report should go back with instructions to state specifically wherein the superintendent's report was misleading, and he moved it be re-referred for this purpose.

In executive session the senate confirmed the following nominations of directors of the state institutions made by the governor.

State Prison—For four years beginning March 15th, E. L. Travis, of Halifax; chairman, Julian S. Mann, of Hyde; Nathan O'Berry, of Wayne; J. A. Brown, of Columbus; W. E. Crossland, of Richmond.

State Hospital at Morganton—For six years beginning April 1st, A. A. Shuford, of Catawba; R. L. Holt, of Alamance; R. N. Page, of Montgomery.

Institution for Deaf and Dumb at Morganton—For term of six years from

date of confirmation, Isaac Roberts, of Davie; M. F. Morpew, of McDowell.

NIGHT SESSION.

The senate met at 8 o'clock and held an hour's session.

Bills passed third reading as follows: To declare the East Carolina railroad duly incorporated and enlarge its charter; senate bill, to amend the act incorporating the Carolina Mutual Insurance Company; house bill, for consolidation and government of colored normal schools; house bill, to incorporate White Oak academy, Bladen county; house bill, to prohibit the manufacture and sale of liquor in certain localities; this is the omnibus prohibition bill, incorporating many churches and schools.

The committee on propositions and grievances recommended the removal of the arsenal from the capitol square and the building of an arsenal and hall of records on the site bought two years ago.

Bills passed as follows: Relating to public roads, bridges, ferries and fords, (the Alexander road law passed by the senate, about half the counties being exempted from its application); to incorporate the Aberdeen and Gibson railway; to allow Kaintuck township Pender county, to levy a special tax; to authorize the superintendent of public instruction to receive passes over railroads; for the consolidation and government of colored normal schools, (gives power to board of education to discontinue or consolidate as it may deem best; appropriation formerly given continued).

The bill to provide permanent registration of all persons entitled to vote under section 3 article 6 of the constitution came up as a special order.

The bill as amended by the committee to whom it had been re-referred would have passed without debate, but Mr. Ebbs, republican, said he was unwilling to let the bill pass without a protest, because the constitutional amendment was unconstitutional and this bill a worse iniquity.

Mr. Rountree said the constitutional amendment was now the law and would remain so until doomsday unless declared unconstitutional and the only effect of this bill was to enable those white men who could not read and write, and who were otherwise qualified, to vote. That was a pledge made by the democratic party and now that pledge is about to be fulfilled. The republicans are protesting against it. I want them put on record as refusing to give the illiterate white men of North Carolina opportunity to vote.

Mr. Ebbs made a redhot partisan speech.

Messrs. Craig, Smith and Allen replied, asserting that this carried out pledges made the people that no white man should be deprived of voting because of his inability to read and write. The speeches were all warm and brought round after round of applause and cheers from the majority.

The roll call on the bill showed—aye, 81; noes, 16. Mr. Dean was the only republican voting aye. The bill then passed its final reading.

Mr. Wright, for the committee on the judiciary, reported unfavorably on the bills to regulate employment of labor in textile factories. He submitted an agreement by the mill owners to carry out the spirit of the bills proposed to be enacted into law, and recommended that this agreement be spread upon the journal with the names of signers attached. The report was adopted without dissent.

The anti-trust bill offered by Mr. Robinson, of Anson, was advocated by him and Mr. McLean. Messrs. Hoey, Marvin, Winston and Shannhouse spoke against it on the ground that the Ward bill with Mr. Robinson's amendment to it had passed the house and senate; that Mr. Robinson's bill had not received a favorable report from any committee and that its passage would be useless.

The motion to table was lost—aye, 13; noes, 55.

Mr. Robinson said he did not care to rush the bill through without giving everybody a chance to examine it. Its reference to a special committee composed of Messrs. Allen, Connor and Graham to report it back Monday was ordered.

The committee to investigate the deaf, dumb and blind institution at Raleigh submitted its report, which says the charges made against the institution were not frivolous nor made maliciously, and complimented courage of White, who made the charges. The report stated that, on the whole, the

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THE PUBLIC PRINTING

THE BOARD FINDS IT A VERY PUZZLING MATTER TO SETTLE.

To Prepare a Schedule of Work and Again Advertise for Bids—A Legislative Sub-Committee at Work on an Omnibus Appropriation Bill—A Bankruptcy Case Decision—Estimate of State's Income From the New Revenue Bill.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., March 9.—The state treasurer today paid out \$11,000 in cash and \$10,000 in checks, nearly all to legislators. Nearly all members are now fully paid to date.

Ex-Attorney General Waiser is here, preparing his new book, Annotations of North Carolina supreme court decisions.

Judge Purnell decides the interesting bankruptcy case, referred to Friday, regarding the North State Lumber Company, of Durham. He decides that the district court has jurisdiction; that the assets and principal place of business are in North Carolina. The corporation was formed, by agreement, in Michigan, but its plant is at Durham and most of its timber lands in Wake county. The company claimed it was a Michigan corporation. The judge says the claim that its principal office is in another state where there are no assets cannot affect the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court in the state where its assets and principal place of business really are. Other questions involved the judge will pass upon later.

The public printing board had a long session this afternoon. All five bidders were present, save the Queen City Printing Company, of Charlotte. There were arguments by counsel for other bidders. The board decided to prepare a schedule of all work and advertise again for bids, and have it understood that the board can accept all of a bid or any part thereof. The board finds the public printing matter the biggest puzzle it ever struck.

The odd fact was ascertained tonight that all the state officers, save the commissioner of agriculture, are Masons and Pythians.

The joint committee on appropriations had a four hours' session today. It appointed as a sub-committee E. L. Travis, R. N. Simms and Fred L. Carr to redraft all appropriation bills so as to redraft all appropriations in one bill. Members of the committee tell me they will endeavor to give all that the various committees have asked for, and they now think they will be able to do this. It must be remembered that what the committees recommend is not what was originally asked. Various committees have scaled down the appropriations, and it is on the work of these various committees that the appropriations committee's work is based. The committee asked Representative Willard for his estimate of the income from the revenue act. His estimate is \$1,596,000.

The committee meets again Monday morning. It has not passed on the various items of appropriations, its members declare.

Representative Craig says that over seventy members of the house have signed a pledge to remain as long as there is work to be done or to return at any time upon a call of Speaker Moore.

The state charters the Harrisburg Improvement Company, capital \$25,000.

NEW ENGLAND COTTON TRADE

Demoralized Over Outlook and Southern Competition.

Fall River, Mass., March 9.—The demoralized condition of the cotton goods market continues to cause uneasiness in mill circles and the gloomy feeling was intensified today, when it was announced that 25,000 pieces of regular goods for March delivery had been sold by the selling committee of the Fall River Manufacturers' Association at 2½c. It is stated, however, that the regular price is still 3 cents flat, the temporary reduction having been made to meet competition forced by a southern concern and a Rhode Island company. The transaction, however, has given a new impetus to a movement to bring about a reduction in wages and a curtailment in production, which had been partly checked by a strong influence to prevent such a step.

A WRECKED BARK PICKED UP.

The Crew's Suffering—Some Leap Into the Sea.

Ooran, Algiers, March 9.—The Italian bark Scillin, which on March 4th was reported wrecked, has been towed here by a steamer. The Scillin was dismasted and thrown on her beam ends during a gale off Cape Gatte, February 26th. The vessel drifted for days, those on board being without food or water, and some of them jumped overboard and were drowned. The captain was washed away. A fishing boat saved seven of the crew.

THE COURT OF IMPEACHMENT.

HOUSE RESOLUTION AS TO PAY APPROVED BY SENATE COMMITTEE.

A Proposition to Ask Opinion of Supreme Court on the Question Abandoned—Saving to the State by Having no Extra Session—The House to Take a Recess—Much Business Still Before Legislature—Election Bill Before Democratic Caucus.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., March 9.—The senate judiciary committee this evening considered the resolution which passed the house, providing for a sitting of the senate as a court of impeachment at \$4 per day after the legislative session ends.

The committee decided by a vote of all the members save two to report the resolution favorably Monday.

Some of the impeachment managers were present, anxious to know what action would be taken so as to govern themselves accordingly.

One member wanted an extra session. If there were the cost would be \$1,100 a day, while the senate would cost alone sitting as a court only about \$225 a day, making a difference approximating \$1,000, on a basis of twenty days for the trial.

There was about to be a request for an opinion by the supreme court, but this was decided not to be proper.

The information above is given by two members of the committee. The idea is that the house shall take a recess at the end of next week, say, to about April 1st, so as to be ready for any contingencies.

It is said by one member of the committee that he does not think the court of impeachment will or can do much next week, as the work of the legislature will require practically all the time of the senate and house. He says he thinks it will require fully six more days. He said that perhaps the court of impeachment might hold night sessions. It was Senator Warren, of the committee, who discovered the sections of the constitution which apply to courts of impeachment and which were quoted last night, and which, as above shown, convinced all the members of the committee save two.

The democratic caucus discussed the election law tonight for two hours, nearly all the discussion being as to whether there should be two or four poll holders. The committee report on this bill provided for four. An amendment was offered to make the number two, one of each party, on the ground of economy. The vote was in favor of the amendment. Many sections were agreed on, and the caucus disposed of about half of the bill.

THE ROOT-PLATT QUARREL

Over the Proposed Appointment of an Assistant Secretary of War.

Washington, March 9.—There are signs that the friction which has been engendered between Secretary Root and Senator Platt over the announced determination of the former to appoint Colonel Sanger as assistant secretary of war, regardless of Mr. Platt's objection, will now be removed. Mr. Platt, who is now in New York, has made an appointment for a talk with the president on the subject as soon as the former returns to Washington, and, meanwhile, it is understood that Mr. Root will withhold his action in the premises, the intimation being thrown out that this misunderstanding can be speedily adjusted upon a free exchange of views.

ADJOURNS SINE DIE.

Closing Scenes of the Extraordinary Session of the Senate.

Washington, March 9.—After proceedings lasting only six days, the extraordinary session of the senate was declared adjourned sine die at 1:55 o'clock p. m. today. During the session practically no business except that of executive character was transacted.

The session was called by the president in order that the senate might have opportunity to confirm appointments made at the beginning of the new administration. That business accomplished, there was nothing further for the senate to do.

At the opening of today's session the president pro tem., Senator Frye, of Maine, was inducted into office, the oath being administered by Vice President Roosevelt.

Hon. John H. Mitchell, the recently elected senator from Oregon, was presented by his colleague, Senator Simon, and took the oath of office. He was given a cordial reception by his colleagues on the floor many of whom had served in the senate with him, and by his friends in the galleries who greeted his appearance with hearty applause.

Through a committee of the senate, consisting of Senators Hoar, of Massachusetts, and Cockerell, of Missouri, the president informed the senate that he had no further communi-

RUSSIA'S SCHEMING

To Secure the Annexation of the Chinese Province of Manchuria.

cations to make. He conveyed to the senators his cordial wishes for their welfare and his hopes that they might have a happy return to their homes. Without ceremony, the session was then declared at an end.

For a considerable time after final adjournment, many senators remained on the floor of the chamber exchanging cordial farewells, some of them making engagements for outings during the long recess. It was an interesting scene that was eagerly watched by the hundreds of persons who had poured into the galleries at the conclusion of the executive session.

THE HAY-PAUNCEFOTE TREATY.

England's Reply to the Amendments of Our Senate.

London, March 9.—The reply of the British government to the note conveying the amendments of the United States senate to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty should be formally delivered by the British ambassador at Washington to Secretary Hay within a few days. The foreign office here did not originally contemplate delaying the British reply until now. The plan appears to have been to transmit the answer previous to the date on which the treaty lapsed, which, according to the British view of the case, would have put the onus of its lapsing on the senate. As previously set forth in these dispatches, the main object of the British government throughout has been to make an entirely new arrangement. At no stage of the proceedings has there been any inclination to accept the senate's amendments.

It is understood here that the nature of the British government's reply has already been informally communicated to Secretary Hay. Great Britain has no intention of modifying or abrogating the Clayton-Bulwer treaty without a satisfactory quid pro quo. That treaty, according to the foreign office view of the case, remains as much in force now as the day it was signed. The speeches made in the senate do not disturb Downing street. They are dismissed with the remark that "treaties cannot be abrogated without the consent of both the contracting parties. There is, however, an apparently genuine belief here, that a satisfactory arrangement will eventually be arrived at, though it is scarcely thought it could be got into the requisite shape in time for discussion at the extra session of the senate. Moreover, there is a freely expressed disinclination on the part of British officials to commit themselves to any further treaties until they are thoroughly assured of the views the senate holds on the matter in question.

A CYCLONE IN TEXAS.

Four Persons Killed—Many Injured. A Town Almost Demolished.

Wills Point, Texas, March 9.—At 11 o'clock this morning a cyclone passed through the west side of this town, demolishing everything in its track. Four people are dead and about twenty injured.

Fourteen dwelling houses are entirely ruined and a number of others are badly wrecked. The public school building is a total loss. The cotton oil mill is damaged and the largest gin plant is in splinters. Wires were blown off the poles and the fences leveled and a freight car is off the track.

Several of the injured are expected to die. The property loss is placed at \$50,000 which is considered a conservative estimate.

Black clouds had been hanging in the southwest all the morning. The atmosphere was heavy, and at intervals there had been blustering showers of rain. It was just at noon when there was a long roar of rumbling thunder, a puff of wind and then the air was thick with flying timbers. The cyclone came from the southwest and held to a straight northeast course. Its path was about 300 yards wide. It struck the northwest quarter of the town, in the residence section. No house is left which is not irreparably wrecked. Most of them are demolished—mere heaps of debris that offer opportunity for the junk man. Household furniture and utensils are strewn farther than the eye can reach.

Houston, Texas, March 9.—Reports from New Boston, Texas, indicates that no lives were lost in the storm there this afternoon, but five people were seriously injured, whose names cannot yet be obtained. During the storm at Texarkana the residence of Mrs. Poole at College Hill, a suburb, was blown down and Mrs. Poole was seriously injured.

The Negotiations and Maneuvers That Have Been Going on Since Before the Boxer Uprising—To Mobilize Her Forces on the Mongolian Frontier.

Russia's Repeated Assurances to the Powers That She Has no Designs on Chinese Territory—Our Government Taking no Part in Secret Negotiations to Frustrate Russia's Plans. Her Attitude Openly Announced to the Powers.

Washington, March 9.—The official correspondence that has passed between the state department and the several powers interested in the Chinese question discloses the fact that Russia, suspected as she is by England and perhaps by some other powers, of planning to seize and hold Manchuria as her own, has upon every occasion, when opportunity served to draw forth a statement of her motives, declared emphatically that she had no such purpose.

On the 16th ultimo the United States addressed strong representations to China through Mr. Conger and Prince Ching and Li Hung Chang. China was told that the United States could not approve any secret negotiations between China and any individual power looking to the concession of territory to such power; and it was further insisted that, to be valid, any such concession of territory should be given with the assent of all the other powers. To still further emphasize the warning against the beginning of a division of China, it was significantly stated that the United States did not regard the present as an opportune time for making any concessions of territory or even for conducting negotiations for such concessions.

The United States government has not entered into any secret or open agreement with Great Britain or with any other individual power, however strongly it may sympathize with the British desire to insure Manchuria against seizure.

On the contrary our government has from the beginning discouraged such special alliances as to China and has adopted the practice of informing every one of the powers of the contents of any statement it has addressed to any one of them. It is felt here that the greatest strength of our position has lain in this frank and open method of negotiations and there is no disposition to abandon it now.

Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador called at the state department today and was closeted with Secretary Hay for half an hour. Although no statement can be extracted as to the nature of the interchange, it is believed that the ambassador took occasion to again assert the sincerity and propriety of Russia's purpose relative to Manchuria.

Berlin, March 9.—The Tageblatt's special correspondent, who has been travelling in northern Manchuria, Mongolia, and on the borders of Siberia and China for a year, and whose reports, hitherto, have been correct without exception, has furnished his paper with a long letter which is published today, containing interesting details regarding the Russo-Chinese agreement on the subject of Manchuria, Mongolia and Turkestan. He proceeds to give facts concerning the proposed internal administration of that part of China, demonstrating that Manchuria will become an integral part of Russia, more so than even Bokhara. In regard to Mongolia, he says there is no doubt a protectorate has been established, as this is evidenced by the hoisting of Russian flags everywhere, the thorough organization of the district, the establishment of tax collecting offices and the opening of branches of Russo-Chinese banks, with no one but Russian officials in charge. All this, virtually, has taken place during the past six months and began before the Boxer outbreak.

Besides establishing direct communication with Lhasa (Thibet), where a victory for Russia was scored by an immense bribe of bars of silver, direct telegraph communication now also exists between the Russians at Kuldja and those in China, even reaching Sian Fu, where the Chinese court has been sojourning. Without the knowledge of either the Europeans or the Americans or their Japanese allies, this correspondent says Prince Tuan went to Kan Su province, (in the northwestern

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